jured and who have not been paid compensation so far;

(c) the reasons for the delay; and

(d) the steps Government are taking to expedite the payment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (d) According to available information, a total of 220 Indian passengers were travelling by this flight. Out of these, 13 were killed and 76 were injured.

The matter regarding payment of compensation is between the Airline and the passengers/next of kin.

Import of Digital switching system

606. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under the consideration of Government to import digital switching systems for handling telecommunication traffic in major districts in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) by when the proposed system is likely to be installed and to what extent the consumers will be benefited?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There is a proposal to import digital trunk switches for the eight cities of Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Hyderabad and Pune.

(c) The proposed system are likely to be installed by the year 1990 progressively. With the introduction of these systems the consumers will be benefited as follows:

(i) Trunk calls will be tried strictly in order of priority and booking time.

(ii) Handling of trunk calls will be speeded up.

(iii) It will be possible to readily find out the status of trunk call and answer any enquiries about the call quickly.

(iv) Valuation of trunk call tickets for billing purposes will be speeded up.

Air-taxi Services

607. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the air taxi scheme which was approved by Government during last year has not worked properly; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) The response to the Air Taxi Service Scheme has not been encouraging. Government is contemplating modification of the scheme to make it more attractive.

Demurrage charged at Ports

608. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH:
SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state what is the amount of demurrage charged at each of the major ports in the country during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): As per audited accounts, the demurrage income of different major ports during the years 1983-84, 1984-85 and 1985-86 is as follows:—

(Rs. in lakhs)

Name of Port	1983-84	1984-85	1985-86
Bombay	3491·63	5553·82	6219·24
Calcutta	2868·00	4552·00	2502·00
Cochin	80·17	109·54	82·05
Kandla	14·16	36·83	26·56
Madras	418·41	876·82	1019·57
Mormugao	Nil	0·19	0·23
New Mangalore	1·41	3·67	9·65
Paradip	0·24	0·05	0·70
Tuticorin	11·90	8·58	4·68
Visakhapatnam	462·52	597·76	450·40

609. [*Transferred to the 30th April, 1987*]

Adverse effect on Small Newspapers due to postal hike

610. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the hike in postal and telecommunication rates has adversely affected small and medium newspapers; and

(b) if so, the steps Government are taking to provide relief to such papers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) *POSTAL TARIFF*: The tariff structure of various postal services is adjusted from time to time keeping in view the cost of postal operation. Even after increase of the rate of postage on registered newspapers from 5 paise to 15 paise, the annual deficit in running the registered newspapers service is Rs. 16.43 crores approximately. Thus the service subsidised to this extent.

Telecom-Tariff: While the tariff for telegraph circuits provided to general public has been revised to Rs. 125 per Km. per annum for 50 bauds and Rs. 200 per Km. per annum for 75 bauds the rates for the Press including newspapers and news agencies are fixed at only 50 per cent of these charges. As the cost of operation and maintenance has gone up substantially and the increase in tariff has been kept to the minimum, further concession is not possible.

Outbreak of Measles in Gujarat

611. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether measles have claimed the lives of ninety children in Rajkot